Men’s soccer soul searching for success

By Eamon Ducey

The monkey on the men’s soccer team’s back has been replaced by a full-fledged gorilla.

Rider was defeated by defending Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) champion Loyola by a score of 2-1 on Saturday. The Broncs again were down 3-0 to Delaware on Tuesday in a non-conference contest, when the officials finally called the game after the third rain delay of the afternoon.

The theme of this season has been to fall behind early and play catch up. Rider has been able score the first goal only twice this season.

Saturday afternoon against Loyola, the Broncs once again fell behind by two goals in the first half. Mid fielder Adam Bailey’s second goal of the season happened with 20 minutes left in the game and cut the lead in half, but the Broncs fell short again tying the season record to 0-7 and their MAAC record to 0-1.

The team looks like that there is a just a step slower then their opponents, which might come from playing on a winning losing team.

Those were the most physical game for us,” said Ascolese.

“They had the most penetrating offense we’ve ever all year. Fortunately, we played together as a team and pulled out the win.”

Coyle and the offense may receive the credit, but if Rider hopes to advance in the playoffs, its defense will have to continue its excellent play.

“Our defense is the foundation of our game,” said Ascolese.

“Without a doubt we’re the best in the MAAC. They start everything for us and a lot of our plays start with great defense. They’re solid.”

Certain teams will say the traditional “we’re taking it one game at a time,” but Rider knows the meaningful part of its season begins today. In order to prepare for its conference foes, the Broncs plan to unleash a new style of defense it practiced on Wednesday.

“We tried a new thing (Wednesday) on defense where we use less pressure in certain areas, and we’re taking it one game at a time,” but Rider knows the meaningful part of its season begins today.

“Rider does not play again until Friday, October 1, 2004.

Continued from page 12

‘KICKS’

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One of the game-winners came in the 2-1 overtime victory.

“And she does it while playing defense. She brings a lot to our team.”

one expected a freshman to be as tough as Bailey on offense. She was talented and a terrific athlete.

The theme of this season has been to fall behind early and play catch up. Rider has been able score the first goal only twice this season.

The team gets along great on and off the field. The team has the lost the look of a group having fun, but instead a team that is trying to avoid another loss.

The Broncs need a win badly to break the mental wear and tear caused by all the losses. Rider does not play against until Tuesday to the players will have week to take a breather and a chance to refocus.

They will need the time because seven out of their ten games in October are MAAC conference games. Rider will try to win their first game when they visit Patriot League’s Bucknell University on Tuesday afternoon.

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